

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 02011 100858Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 EUR-12 TRSE-00
OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 STE-01
DOTE-00 /071 W

-----066434 101305Z /46

R 100808Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6984
INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB ECRP AG
SUBJ: STRIKES

REF: ALGIERS 1947

1. AUG 7-8 EDITION OF LE MONDE REPORTS BRIEFLY ON AUG 1 ALGIERS
BUS DRIVERS STRIKE (REFTEL). PAPER SAYS THAT PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE
WENT TO A CITY BUS DEPOT AND GAVE ASSURANCES TO WORKERS THAT THEIR
DEMANDS WOULD BE GIVEN CONSIDERATION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WORKERS
WERE CALLING FOR BETTER WORKING HOURS AND MORE VACATION TIME. ON
BASIS OF PRESIDENT'S PROMISE ACCORDING TO LE MONDE, DRIVERS RETURNED
TO WORK.

2. KNOWLEDGEABLE JOURNALIST TELLS US THAT RATE OF LABOR-MANAGEMENT
DISPUTES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY IS THREE OR FOUR TIMES HIGHER THAN IT
HAS BEEN IN RECENT PAST. WHILE MOST DIFFICULTIES ARE IN PRIVATE
ENTERPRISES, JOURNALIST PUTS NUMBER OF DISPUTES IN STATE COMPANIES
AT 32 OVER PAST THREE MONTHS.

3. JOURNALIST ALSO BELIEVES THAT SLOWDOWN STRIKE IN ALGIERS PORT
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 02011 100858Z

IS CONTINUING. OUR OWN OBSERVATION DOES NOT SUBSTANTIATE THIS
ASSERTION, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT FOR MORE OR LESS CASUAL OBSERVER TO
TELL IF SLOWDOWN IN EFFECT OR NOT. ACCORDING TO JOURNALIST, DOCK-
WORKERS ARE PROTESTING GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO PUT INTO EFFECT BEN-
EFITS PROMISED FOLLOWING WORK STOPPAGE EARLIER THIS SPRING. EARLIER
STRIKE, JOURNALIST SAYS, WAS AT TIMES VIOLENT, AND TWO WORKERS
SAID TO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN DISTURBANCES.

4. FINALLY, ALGIERS GARBAGEMEN STRUCK BRIEFLY DURING NIGHT OF AUG 8-9

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LIKE BUS DRIVERS' WALKOUT A WEEK EARLIER, THIS STRIKE WAS QUICKLY SETTLED AND GARBAGEMEN RETURNED TO WORK AUG 9-10.

5. COMMENT: WITH EXCEPTION OF DOCK WORKERS' STRIKE IN MAY, RECENT WORK STOPPAGES HAVE BEEN OF VERY SHORT DURATION AND HAVE DONE LITTLE TO DISRUPT EVERYDAY LIFE. NEVERTHELESS, REGIME CLEARLY SENSITIVE TO THEM (LE MONDE WHICH REPORTED BUS DRIVERS' STRIKE DID NOT APPEAR ON NEWSSTANDS HERE), AND BOUMEDIENE APPARENTLY CONCERNED ENOUGH TO BECOME PERSONALLY INVOLVED.HAYNES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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